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Meeting with [REDACTED]
 9 October 1957

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25X1X6

[REDACTED]
 Gordon M. Stewart

25X1A9a

Director of Personnel
 Deputy Director (Support) - 2
 Director of Security
 Chief, Medical Staff

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1. [REDACTED] reviewed the points covered in his conversation with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (copy attached). In addition he made the following points and I replied as is indicated.

2. He said that CIA people are hesitant to participate in church activities. They attend worship services, give generously, but most of them will accept no responsibilities. He asked whether it would be improper for him to push our people a little and we replied that he should treat CIA people as he does anyone else. If they say their work prevents them from accepting church duties, he should feel free to jolly them along on the understanding that anyone who really can't accept a job will not yield, but that there are others who because of timidity or laziness only too readily cite their employment as an excuse for not doing other things.

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3. [REDACTED] regards our personnel as very desirable parishioners, well above the average and, as he put it, spiritually sensitive to an uncommon degree.

4. He asked whether he should place a limit on the spiritual counseling that he does with CIA people because of security considerations. We said no. We said that the Agency would in no way stand in the way of an employee or his dependent who desired spiritual counseling and that in our opinion this would not represent a security problem with which he should concern himself. We assured him that no employee would be in any way penalized by the Agency for having sought spiritual consultation. This was in answer to a question.

5. He said that the dependents represented to him the greatest problem. He characterized them as being shy, unable to adjust to community and church life, clearly in need of an outlet but seemingly prevented from seeking the normal social and religious satisfactions by a real or imagined security barrier. We replied that we could not regard this condition as desirable and would consider ways and

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Meeting with [REDACTED] (continued)

means of doing something about it in the Agency. He asked again whether it might not be desirable to establish a periodical coffee get-together for the CIA women in his parish and we advised against it. We commented that this might set them apart from the rest of the parish even more than at present and that in our opinion their participation in the normal affairs of the church would be the right answer to the problem.

6. He asked what he should do when faced with a situation bordering on desperation that for one reason or another he could not resolve. We suggested that he call one or the other of us and we would be of as much help as we could. It was agreed that this relationship between [REDACTED] and the Agency would be confidential. 25X1X6

7. In this connection he asked bluntly whether we provided psychiatric help to our people. We explained that the Agency has a Medical Staff with psychiatric consultants but that this Staff devotes its energies to the normal medical screening of people for employment and for various duty assignments and periodic screening of people beyond a particular age. As in other government agencies we do not provide therapy. We said, however, that we would do everything possible to organize psychiatric therapy for an employee and his dependant if such should be needed.

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8. [REDACTED] suggested that when we move to the new building we institute the practice of having 15 minute devotional meetings during the working week. He said that such meetings are held in the Pentagon and in other parts of the government.

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9. During his conversation [REDACTED] alluded various times to the increasing problem represented by CIA and at the conclusion he asked if he and other ministers in the area could be briefed about CIA.

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10. We said that this was one of the purposes of our visit to him. I characterized CIA personnel as falling into various separate groupings, clerics, administrators, and professional people. I also said that in my view people who had been established a long time in Washington represented less of a problem than newcomers. I discounted the importance of secrecy as an influence on the behavior of our personnel saying that our people, of course, are required to maintain security about certain aspects of the work they do but that this is common place in large parts of the government. On the other hand, much of the work that is done in the Agency lacks those tangible measures of success and production which satisfy young people in other walks of life and cause them to be better adjusted, and that this is not likely to change. Thus, if a person seeking religious counsel alludes to the difficulty of his work it would be my advice that [REDACTED] say that time and that patience and that steadiness are required to adjust to any difficult pursuit.

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11. [REDACTED] pointed out that he would like to speak to some of his colleagues about our visit. We said he could do so and said that we would be glad to extend the informal relationship established with him to any of his colleagues if such is desired. We asked him not to discuss the Agency in any group of ministers but to approach those that he thought might be interested individually and confidentially and to ask them if they are interested to be in touch with us.